



# NH Energy Codes Newsletter

JANUARY 23, 2006

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1



## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the NH Energy Codes newsletter, published to keep you up to date on changes in the energy code, beyond code programs, training opportunities and other useful information.

In response to numerous requests for training, the Public Utilities Commission Energy Codes Office will be holding workshops here at the Commission. These workshops are on the energy codes and building energy efficiency related topics. They are free, open to the public and designed for homeowners as well as the building community. A complete schedule can be found below.

In addition to these in-house trainings, we have received a grant from the DOE to hold our annual residential and commercial energy code trainings around the state. The schedule for these additional workshops will be listed in the next newsletter.

For more information about the NH Energy Codes, applications for compliance and the latest compliance software visit our website [www.puc.nh.gov](http://www.puc.nh.gov).

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**Changes in Rescheck**  
*Taking place Jan 23, 2006*

**Announcing the Online  
NH Energy Codes  
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Update**

**Code Consultant  
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*Interested builders and  
code officials wanted.*

**Regional Conferences  
and Continuing  
Education**

**PUC sponsoring 6  
workshops.**  
*Residential Energy  
Codes, Energy  
Efficiency, and  
sustainable Energy  
Workshops being  
conducted at the PUC in  
Concord*

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## CHANGE IN *REScheck*

Starting January 23, if you use *REScheck* to show compliance with the code and are installing an HVAC system, you **must** use the new version of *REScheck* Software [3.7 release 1b] which accounts for changes in standards.

This UPDATED software, Version 3.7 Release 1b, can be downloaded from our website or by clicking [NH REScheck](#)

REMINDER: If you are using *REScheck* to show compliance with the NH Energy Code, you must include page 1-3 of the [New Construction](#) or [addition-renovation-sunroom](#) packages. *REScheck* software is not accepted without backup documentation

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## NH ENERGY CODES ONLINE TRAINING CENTER

The NH Energy Codes Office is pleased to announce our new [Online Training Center](#) which offers video training on a variety of code and related building science issues and guidance on the design and construction of efficient, durable and sustainable buildings in New Hampshire.

Many thanks to Mike DeWein and the Building Codes Assistance Project (BCAP) for making this resource available.



## EXPRESS NH PACKAGE UPDATE

There has been confusion about this new option which was introduced last fall. The [Express NH Package](#) is one of SEVERAL alternatives for showing compliance with the NH ENERGY CODE. It may be used for New Construction, Addition or Renovation jobs.

The ease of completing the Express NH Package is its simplicity: you just have to meet the listed specifications, no calculations or computers. In return, the Express NH Package requires higher efficiency standards for all components. You **MUST** meet all the appropriate standards listed to use this package.

If you cannot meet the specifications listed in the Express NH Package, you may use the standard [new construction](#) or [addition-renovation-sunroom](#) packages.

More questions? Contact the Energy Codes office or sign up for one of our energy codes trainings

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## CODE CONSULTANT PROJECT EXTENDED

**Builders learning 'best practice' efficiency techniques.**

Are you a builder or code official concerned with the energy efficiency of new construction? This innovative training project links builders and building inspectors with building scientists. Participants are needed. Participants will receive free consulting through out the building cycle. For more information, please call (603)271-6306

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## NH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION IN-HOUSE CODE WORKSHOPS SPRING 2006 SCHEDULE

**Energy Efficiency for Residential Buildings:  
NH Energy Code and Beyond**

### 1. NH Energy Code: How do I build a house that complies with the Energy Code?

- **Tuesday, February 07, 2006**  
9:00 AM until 12:00 noon
- **Thursday, March 02, 2006**  
9:00 AM until 12:00 noon
- **Thursday, April 13, 2006**  
9:00 AM until 12:00 noon

This workshop is for builders needing to show compliance with the NH Energy Code. Topics include different methods of compliance including using **REScheck** software. Also discussed will be resources for building energy efficient homes.

Presenter: **Wes Golomb**, Energy Conservation Coordinator, NHPUC

### 2. Homeowner Energy Overview: Saving Money and Staying Warm

- **Thursday, February 16, 2006**  
9:00 AM until 12:00 noon

Workshop for homeowners: What are the most practical and cost effective strategies for homeowners who want to be more energy efficient? What *really* saves you money on energy bills?

Presenter: **Wes Riley**, President; Residential Energy Performance Association

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**We're on the Web!**  
[www.puc.nh.gov/EnergyCodes/energypg.htm](http://www.puc.nh.gov/EnergyCodes/energypg.htm)



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Codes/energypg.htm](http://www.puc.nh.gov/EnergyCodes/energypg.htm)

### 3. Builders Energy Overview

- **Thursday, February 23, 2006**  
9:00 AM until 2:00 PM.

Strategies for planning and building an energy-efficient structure, and resources available within NH to help you.

Presenter: **Wes Riley**, President Residential Energy Performance Association

### 4. NH Residential Renewable Energy Opportunities

- **Thursday, March 23, 2006**  
9:00 AM until 12:00 noon

Explore the current state of renewable energy strategies for residences. What is practical? Cost Effective? Appropriate? What about solar energy, wind and other sources that might help get you 'off the grid?'

Presenter: **Mark Weissflog**, KW Management

### 5. Geothermal and Energy Star Homes

- **Thursday, April 27, 2006**  
9:00 AM until 12:00 noon

How does a Geothermal energy system work? Is it cost effective? What resources are available to someone who would like to install such a system? Also NH has a robust Energy Star Homes Program. Find out how to build an Energy Star Home and how to get the many advantages such a home offers.

Presenter: **Mike McQueeney**, PSNH

All sessions include information on 'best practices' and related resources within NH.

#### Location of Workshops:

**All Sessions will be held at the NH Public Utilities Commission, 21 South Fruit St, Suite 10, Concord NH 03301**

#### How to register:

**Phone:** (603) 271-6306  
**E-mail:** [wes.golomb@puc.nh.gov](mailto:wes.golomb@puc.nh.gov)

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### Regional Conferences and Continuing Education

(These are listed for informational purposes. The NH Public Utilities Commission does not endorse or have any ties to these opportunities.)

Better Buildings by Design Conference 2006  
Efficiency VT  
Feb 8 and 9  
Sheraton Conference Center, Burlington VT  
[www.efficiencyvermont.com](http://www.efficiencyvermont.com)

The region's premier design and construction conference, featuring interactive learning about building durability, efficiency and value.  
50+ Exhibitors, 1000+ Attendees, 40+ Workshops  
1-877-248-9900



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**We're on the Web!**  
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Codes/energypg.htm](http://www.puc.nh.gov/EnergyCodes/energypg.htm)

The Practice of Sustainability  
Building Energy 06  
Northeast Sustainable Energy Association  
March 7-9, 2006

Seaport World Trade Center, Boston MA

[www.buildingenergy.nesea.org](http://www.buildingenergy.nesea.org)

The conference and trade show for renewable energy and green building professionals.

### **Online Courses and Certificate Program**

The Boston Architectural Center now offers 8 courses and a certificate program in Sustainable Design. For information contact:

The Continuing Education Department

617 585 0121

[ce@the-bac.edu](mailto:ce@the-bac.edu)

<http://green.the-bac.edu>

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### **Frequently Asked Code Question:**

***"I'm building a new home, do I need to insulate my basement walls?"***

If you are heating the basement then you must insulate the walls. Heating the basement means that you have a heat source, a thermostat and/or a distribution means into the basement, e.g.: baseboard heating, an electric strip or a vent into the basement.

Having a boiler or furnace which throws off ambient heat into the basement does not necessarily mean that the basement is heated. In this case, you may choose to call the basement heated or not.

If the basement is **NOT** heated, then the ceiling is insulated. If the basement **IS** heated then the walls of the basement **MUST** be insulated. Any wall which is greater than 50% above grade is considered an above grade wall for purposes of the energy code application, and must be insulated. Any wall that is less than or equal to 50% above grade is considered a below grade wall. Below grade walls are called basement walls on the energy code application.

In a heated basement, any slab edge (the edge of the concrete floor of the basement) at or within one foot of grade, must be insulated starting at the top of the slab edge, going straight down or down and under the slab for a minimum of 4 feet.

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If you have questions about the NH Energy Code, an idea for this newsletter, know someone who would like to receive this newsletter or wish to be taken off our mailing list, please contact us at the phone/address at the left side of this page.